Green Electronics Council

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PLAN FOR VERIFICATION ROUND PC-2016-04

1680.1 PCs and Displays
August 2016

I. PURPOSE AND CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document outlines the plan for the PC-2016-04 Verification Round of Investigations to be performed in accordance with P15 Verification Procedure, this Verification Plan, and EPEAT scheme rules.

II. SELECTION OF CRITERIA AND PRODUCTS FOR VERIFICATION

Verification Round PC-2016-04 will investigate the following criteria:

- 4.5.1.1 - ENERGY STAR
- 4.5.1.2 - Early adoption of new ENERGY STAR specification
- 4.3.2.2 - Marking of plastics
- 4.8.2.1 - Separable packing materials

This Verification Round targets these four criteria for various reasons. First, the U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR program recently published a new version (Version 7.0) for monitors and signage displays. The new version became effective on July 1, 2016. All manufacturers of monitors and signage displays will be investigated during this Verification Round for at least one product. Additionally, all Manufacturers claiming 4.5.1.2 for Version 7.0 will be investigated for one product.

All manufacturers claiming 4.3.2.2 will be investigated for one product due to high levels of non-conformances. Additionally, one manufacturer will be investigated for 4.8.2.1 for a specific product due to a previous inconclusive investigation from the PC-2016-02 Verification Round.

Investigations for 4.5.1.1 will be investigated via Level 0 investigation. In a Level 0 investigation, an Auditor assesses Conformance to a criterion by examining publicly available information only – no products are obtained for inspection or testing, and the Manufacturer is not asked to submit documentation. If the publicly available information is inconclusive (i.e. was not available, could not be found from public sources, or did not provide enough details to determine conformance), the Auditor may be instructed to proceed with a Level 1 investigation.

All other criteria will be investigated via Level 1 investigation after the Level 0 portion of the Verification Round has closed. In a Level 1 investigation, an Auditor assesses Conformance to a criterion by examining information submitted by a Manufacturer. The Manufacturer is required to provide detailed and accurate information in a timely manner.

The products and criteria will be selected via the process below:

	Selection Process:	*Notes:*
	⬇	
Step 1	A list of all products will be pulled from the EPEAT Registry.	*All active products on the Registry will be included.*
	⬇	
Step 2	Select from the list all manufacturers claiming 4.5.1.1 and 4.5.1.2 and narrow the list to monitors and/or signage displays. Randomly select one product per manufacturer for 4.5.1.1 alone and one from each manufacturer also claiming 4.5.1.2.	*All manufacturers making monitors and signage displays will be investigated. Only those monitors and signage displays claiming 4.5.1.2 will be investigated.*
	⬇	
Step 3	From the full list of manufacturers and products, narrow the list down to those products claiming 4.3.2.2. Randomly select one product from each manufacturer.	*All manufacturers claiming 4.3.2.2 will be subject to at least one investigation. If a product was already selected for investigation for either 4.5.1.1 or 4.5.1.2, the same product will be investigated for 4.3.2.2.*
	⬇	
Step 4	One product will be selected for a specific manufacturer claiming 4.8.2.1.	*Only one specific manufacturer will be subject to this investigation.*

- All geographies and Manufacturers with active products on the EPEAT Registry are eligible for inclusion.
- No Manufacturer will have more than 3 investigations in this Verification Round.
- Exception is as follows: If a product is randomly selected and that product has been investigated against that criterion in the last six months, a new product will be randomly selected for the criterion.

III. VERIFICATION PROCESSS

The Verification Round will proceed in accordance with current procedures, as outlined below.

Level 0 Investigations - Targeted and Random Criteria:

The Level 0 portion of the Verification Round will proceed in accordance with current procedures, as outlined below.

1. The EPEAT Scheme will take a "snapshot" of the Registry, from which products will be selected for investigation.

2. The EPEAT Scheme will instruct Conformity Assurance Bodies (if applicable – see Section V) to proceed with the investigations.

3. Conformity Assurance Bodies will assign investigations to (an) Auditor(s). The Auditor(s) will NOT notify the subject Manufacturers that their products are being investigated at this time.

4. The Auditors will perform the investigations as assigned within the allotted time, and prepare an Investigation Report for each investigation, recommending conformance or inconclusive based on publicly available data.

5. Conformity Assurance Bodies will review all Investigation Reports to ensure they are clear and complete and the evidence supports the recommendation, and will forward the Report and supporting evidence to the EPEAT Scheme. At the same time, Conformity Assurance Body will forward the draft Reports (without the final Conformity Decision Panel decision) to the subject Manufacturers.

6. The Conformity Decision Panel will review the reports and make a decision regarding conformity. The identity of the products and Manufacturers will not be disclosed to the Conformity Decision Panel. The Conformity Decision Panel will be blind to the specific products and Manufacturers for which they are making conformity decisions.

7. In the case of a finding of inconclusive, the EPEAT Scheme will launch a Level 1 investigation. The Verification Process for Level 1 investigations can be seen below.

8. Conformity Assurance Bodies will inform the subject Manufacturers of the Conformity Decision Panel's conformity decision. For decisions of Non-Conformance, Manufacturers will be required to take corrective action within 14 calendar days to restore the accuracy of the declaration in the EPEAT Registry.

<u>Level 1 Investigations - Targeted Criteria and Manufacturers:</u>

1. The EPEAT Scheme will use the "snapshot" of the Registry taken for the Level 0 investigations.

2. The EPEAT Scheme will instruct Conformity Assurance Bodies (if applicable – see Section V) to proceed with the investigations.

3. Conformity Assurance Bodies will assign investigations to (an) Auditor(s), and will notify the subject Manufacturers that their products are being investigated.

4. The EPEAT Scheme will publish the Verification Round Plan on epeat.net.

5. The Auditors will perform the investigations as assigned within 60 calendar days, and prepare an Investigation Report for each investigation, recommending conformance or nonconformance.

6. Conformity Assurance Bodies will review all Investigation Reports to ensure they are clear and complete and the evidence supports the recommendation, and will forward the Report and supporting evidence to the EPEAT Scheme. At the same time, Conformity Assurance Body will forward the draft Reports (without the final Conformity Decision Panel decision) to the subject Manufacturers.

7. The Conformity Decision Panel will review the reports and make a decision regarding conformity. The identity of the products and Manufacturers will not be disclosed to the Conformity Decision Panel. The Conformity Decision Panel will be blind to the specific products and Manufacturers for which they are making conformity decisions.

8. Conformity Assurance Bodies will inform the subject Manufacturers of the Conformity Decision Panel's conformity decision. For decisions of Non-Conformance, Manufacturers will be required to take corrective action within 14 calendar days to restore the accuracy of the declaration in the EPEAT Registry.

9. The EPEAT Scheme will publish a "Verification Round Outcomes Report" identifying the nonconforming products and Manufacturers, as well as the action taken to restore accuracy of the declarations in the Registry.

IV. CONFORMITY DECISION PANEL

The following individuals are the members of the Conformity Decision Panel:

- Libby Chaplin, CEO, Arcadian Solutions
- Jack Geibig, President, Ecoform
- Robert Pfahl, Pfahl Consulting L.L.C.
- Annette Roesler, Ph.D., Independent Professional Chemist

V. PRODUCT REGISTRATION ENTITIES AND QUALIFIED VERIFIERS

All investigations will be conducted through Conformity Assurance Bodies approved by the Green Electronics Council. The following Conformity Assurance Bodies may be involved in Investigations for this Verification Round:

- GEC
- ULE
- Intertek

VI. VERIFICATION ROUND PLAN APPROVAL

A member of the Conformity Decision Panel approved this Verification Round Plan by discussion and/or email on August 25, 2016.

VII. SUMMARY OF PC-2016-04 PLANNED INVESTIGATIONS

Criterion	Verification Selection and Process	# Planned Investigations
4.5.1.1	• ENERGY STAR	**18**
4.5.1.2	• Early adoption of new ENERGY STAR specification	**13**
4.3.2.2	• Marking of plastics	**45**
4.8.2.1	• Separable packing materials	**1**
	Total	**77**